

to make alternate arrangements for supply of cylinders through other suppliers on a priority basis.

(e) The release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. As on 31.12.2006, there was a waiting list of 20295 for new LPG connections with OMCs in the country. The State-wise details are given in the Statement.

Statement

The State-wise number of waiting list for release of new LPG connections

SI. No.	States/UTs	Waiting list as on 31.12.2006	Waiting list as on 1.2.2007
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1600	-
2.	Madhya Pradesh	1560	-
3.	Maharashtra	4455	-
4.	Karnataka	8011	-
5.	Kerala	4661	4861
6.	Lakshadweep	8	160
TOTAL:		20295	5021

Financing of PSUs by JBIC

*103. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) is financing the Public Sector Undertakings in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such undertakings/corporations etc. indicating the total amount of investment to be made therein, PSU-wise;

(c) whether any policy in this regard has been formulated by Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b)
Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) provides ODA loans to Central PSUs in the country with Government of India guarantee. The list of ongoing projects financed by JBIC to Central PSUs.

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Name of the Project	Loan amount in Yen Million	Loan amount in Rs. Crs	%age of Rate of interest	Moratorium period	Date of Signing/ loan agreement
1.	NEEPCo	Tuirial Hydro Electric Power Project	11695	438.56	23	30 Years including a grace period of 10 years	25.2.1997 18.6.2009
2.	NTPC	Simhadri Thermal Power Project	19817	743.14	2.3	-do-	25.2.1997 24.6.2007
3.	NTPC	Simhadri Thermal Power Project-II	12194	457.27	1.8	-do-	30.3.2001 7.6.2008
4.	NTPC	Simhadri Thermal Power Project-III	27473	1030.24	1.8	-do-	13.2.2002 26.3.2009
5.	NTPC	Simhadri Thermal Power Project-IV	5684	213.15	1.8	-do-	31.3.2003 22.8.2009
6.	NHPC	Dhauliganga HE Power Plant Constn.III	13890	520.87	1.3	-do-	31.3.2004 12.7.2009
7.	NTPC	North Kamapura Super Thermal Power Project	15916	596.85	0.75	15 years including a grace period of 5 years	31.3.2005 9.1.2011
8.	REC	Rural Electrification Project	20629	773.58	0.75	15 Years including a grace period of 5 years	29.8.2006 29.8.2012

Exchange rate: Yen 100=Rs.37.5 as on 2nd March 2007

(c) and (d) As per extant policy, Central PSUs are required to submit their project proposals to Department of Economic Affairs through the central line ministries for posing to Government of Japan under Official Development Assistance (ODA). If projects are selected, the Central PSUs

can be direct borrowers of JBIC loan with Government of India guarantee. All Government guarantees in respect of external borrowing by Central PSUs would be subject to a guarantee fee of 1.2% per annum on the outstanding amount of principal plus interest, unless specifically waived or a concessional guarantee fee is prescribed. The guarantee fee is levied on the date of guarantee and thereafter on 1st April each year. The State PSUs are not allowed to borrow directly from external development partners including JBIC.

Suicide by the farmers

†*107. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the main reason of committing suicide by the farmers in the country is the incapacity of repaying the debts;

(b) whether Government propose to write off the interest on loans taken by the affected farmers from banks in case of failure of crops due to famine or any other reasons in the particular area in order to save needy and indebted farmers from misery and also from committing suicide; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Inability of farmers to repay the debt is one of the many reasons for farmers committing suicide in the country. The other reasons are excessive borrowing from non-formal sources, social tension, continuous drought affecting farm yield and their income, emerging changes in social milieu and alienation of the individuals from family and society.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In 31 debt stressed districts in the four States of Maharashtra (06), Andhra Pradesh (16), Karnataka (06) and Kerala (03) the relief package announced for farmers provides that the entire interest on overdue loans as on 01.07.2006 will be waived such that all farmers will have no past interest burden as on that date. This will immediately make them eligible for fresh loan from the banking system. Further, the overdue loans of the farmers as on 01.07.2006 will be rescheduled over a period of 3-5 years with a one year moratorium.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.